

Fire Update – August 3, 2007

West Fork Ranger District

Bitterroot National Forest

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ROMBO MOUNTAIN FIRE

FACT SHEET #1

What: Wildland Fire **Cause:** Lightning

Detected: July 31, 2007

Location: North of Little Boulder Creek, east of Rombo Mountain, approx. 2.5 miles northeast of Painted Rocks Reservoir

Jurisdiction: USDA Forest Service, Bitterroot National Forest

Current size: Approximately 555 acres

Management and Status: The Rombo Mountain fire did not grow appreciably Thursday. Some active burning occurred on the east edges of the fire later in the afternoon and evening. Larry Svalberg's Northern Rockies Type II Incident Command Team will be taking over management of the fire beginning on Saturday.

Today's Weather and Planned Activity: Weather is expected to continue the hot and dry trend. A high pressure system is predicted to move east, with stronger southwest winds in the afternoon and moderate temperatures. The energy release component (ERC) is an index of how hot and volatile a fire will burn. The higher the ERC, the more intense the fire will be, and the harder for firefighters to safely fight the fire. On August 2 the ERC was 68, which is an all time record high for this area.

A public meeting will be held at the Boulder Bay Boat Launch tonight at 6:30 pm to provide information about the Rombo fire and other fires on the Bitterroot National Forest.

Personnel/Resources on the Fire: A total of 70 people are assigned to the fire as well as 2 dozers and 4 engines.

Restrictions & Closures: An area closure, to provide for firefighter and public safety, is in effect for a portion of the West Fork Ranger District east of the West Fork Road, including roads and trails. The closure includes the area south of road 49 (Piquett Creek Road), starting at the junction of 5720 and Road 49, continuing along road 49 along Castle Creek to the district boundary at Medicine Point, south along the district boundary and forest Trail #56 to Wiles Peak, continuing southwest from the headwaters of Slate Creek to Painted Rocks Reservoir. Painted Rocks State Park is open.

Stage II fire restrictions are in effect on the Bitterroot National Forest outside designated wilderness areas, and the Magruder Corridor. Lands within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness and the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness are under Stage I restrictions. There is a temporary flight restriction (TFR#7/0738) in place in a 3.5 mile radius around the center of the Rombo fire.

For more information on fire restrictions, call any Bitterroot National Forest Office: Stevensville @ 777-5461, Hamilton @363-7100, Darby @821-3913, Sula @ 821-3201, West Fork @821-3269.